SUGAR PRODUCTION - QUEENSLAND

THE 1944 CROP.

These statistics have been compiled from returns received from the thirty-two mills which crushed during the 1944 season, together with particulars furnished by growers in the collection of agricultural statistics for the twelve months ended 31st March,1945, and some information from the Sugar Board and other sources.

Growers, Areas, and Yields at Various Periods.

Period.	Farms Growing Cane	Area Cultivated for Sugar (a)	Area Cut for Crushing.	Cane Crushed	Sugar Made at 94 N.T.
	No.	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.
Average 1911-1915	N	146,799	95,837	1,537,880	179,107
" 1916-1920	N	162,921	94,042	1,711,354	200,840
" 1921-1925	N	225,962	151,933	2,668,161	346,776
" 1926-1930	7,255	282,513	209,132	3,465,545	486,187
" 1931-1935	7,395	306,298	222,689	4,147,921	591,021
" 1936-1940	7,778	347,900	253,675	5,373,068	787,427
Season 1940 ..	7,554	350,851	263,299	5,180,868	759,416
" 1941 ..	7,538	343,787	246,073	4,794,237	697,644
" 1942 ..	6,945	309,691	231,256	4,353,438	605,609
" 1943 ..	6,871	320,741	220,932	3,397,617	486,423
" 1944 ..	6,601	312,188	219,652	4,398,268	643,520

(a) Exclusive of area cut for green fodder. In 1944 the area so utilised in the sugar-growing districts was 4,909 acres.

N Not available.

Better seasonal conditions, together with improved fertiliser supplies and a somewhat easier labour position, arrested the war-time decline in the sugar industry to give a total tonnage of 643,520 tons of raw sugar in 1944. This was the best yield since 1941, but it was still far below the record output of 891,738 tons in 1939.

A preliminary estimate of the 1945 crushing indicates that the improved position has been maintained with a production of about 640,000 tons of 94 N.T. sugar.

Average Areas of Cane and Yields of Cane and Sugar at Various Periods.

Period.	Cane Per Farm.			Cane Per Acre Cut for Crushing	Sugar Per Acre Cut for Crushing.	Cane to Make One Ton of Sugar.
	Cultivated.	Cut for Crushing.	Crushed.			
	Acres.	Acres.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Average 1911-1915 ..	N	N	N	16.05	1.87	8.57
" 1916-1920 ..	N	N	N	18.20	2.14	8.52
" 1921-1925 ..	N	N	N	17.56	2.28	7.69
" 1926-1930 ..	38.9	28.8	478	16.57	2.32	7.13
" 1931-1935 ..	41.4	30.1	561	18.63	2.65	7.02
" 1936-1940 ..	44.7	32.6	691	21.18	3.10	6.82
Season 1940	46.4	34.9	686	19.68	2.88	6.82
" 1941	45.6	32.6	636	19.48	2.84	6.87
" 1942	44.6	33.3	627	18.83	2.62	7.19
" 1943	46.7	32.2	404	15.38	2.20	6.98
" 1944	47.3	33.3	666	20.02	2.93	6.83

N Not available.

The cultivated area of the average cane farm has continued to grow during the war years, but the average area cut for crushing has remained steady. The quality of the 1944 cane (6.83 tons to make one ton of sugar) was good, being only slightly below that of the record 1939 season (6.77). The average yield of 20.02 tons of cane per acre for crushing also was the best since the 1939 season. At 2.93 tons, the amount of sugar produced per acre cut for crushing was also the highest since the 1939 season.

Queensland Sugar Pooled:

The 1939 peaks operated during the 1944 season. This scheme provides for a total of 737,000 tons of 94 N.T. sugar to be delivered to No.1 Pool and thus share the benefit of the higher price declared for Australian consumption. In 1944, eight mills exceeded their peaks.

A total of 630,189 tons of sugar was delivered to No.1 Pool, of which 434,795 tons were for Australian consumption and 195,394 tons for export. 13,264 tons were delivered to No. 2 Pool. There were also 22 tons of sugar made from cane grown on unassigned land, making a total of 208,680 tons of sugar for export. In addition, mills manufactured 45 tons of sugar for sale to local farmers, etc.

Prices and Values for Pooled Sugar:

Deliveries for Australian consumption were priced at £22.2.0 per ton, and export sugar realised £15.0.6 (Australian currency) F.O.B. at mill ports. The average price paid for No.1 Pool sugar was £19.18.1 per ton, and, for No.2 Pool sugar, £15.0.6 per ton. A nominal price of 10s. per ton was paid for sugar from cane grown on unassigned land.

The following table of average prices paid by the Sugar Board for deliveries during the last five years illustrates the effect of the lower production on the average price.

Season.	Sugar for Australian Consumption.	Sugar for Export.	All Deliveries. To No.1 Pool only.	All Deliveries. To Nos.1 and 2 Pools.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1940	23. 1. 0	11. 5. 6	17. 11. 9	17. 2. 8
1941	22. 13. 0	10. 18. 9	17. 19. 3	17. 19. 1
1942	22. 14. 6	10. 16. 3	19. 1. 0	19. 0. 5
1943	22. 10. 6	13. 2. 6	21. 1. 3	*
1944	22. 2. 0	15. 0. 6	19. 18. 1	19. 16. 1

* There was no sugar for No. 2 Pool in 1943.

Factories processing fruit and other manufacturers pay the Australian consumption price for their supplies of refined or other sugar, but they receive a considerable rebate on the sugar content of that portion of their products sold overseas.

Detailed Summary - State, 1942,1943 and 1944 Crops.

Item.	Unit.	1942	1943	1944
Farms Growing Cane for Sugar ..	No.	6,945	6,871	6,601
Area Cut for Crushing	Acres	231,256	220,932	219,652
Area Cut for Plants (a) ..	Acres	11,614	13,562	12,406
Area of Standover, Newly Planted, etc. (not cut) (a)..	Acres	66,821	86,247	80,130
Total Area Cultivated for Sugar (a)	Acres	309,691	320,741	312,188
Area Cut for Green Fodder N.E.I. (a)	Acres	4,819	5,292	4,909
Cane Crushed	Tons	4,353,488	3,397,617	4,398,268
Sugar Made (94 N.T.)	Tons	605,609	486,423	643, 520
Average Area of Cane Cultivated per Farm	Acres	44.6	46.7	47.3
Average Area Cut for Crushing per Farm	Acres	33.3	32.2	33.3
Average Cane Crushed per Farm	Tons	627	494	666
Average Cane per Acre Cut for Crushing	Tons	18.83	15.38	20.02
Average Sugar Yield per Acre	Tons	2.62	2.20	2.93
Average Sugar Yield per Farm	Tons	87.2	70.8	97.5
Average Cane per Ton of Sugar	Tons	7.19	6.98	6.83

(a) In sugar growing districts only.

Farms, Areas, and Yields in Divisions:

For the purpose of sugar statistics, the State has been divided into the five main divisions of Cairns (including all areas north of Townsville), Townsville (including the Ayr area), Mackay (including Proserpine area), Maryborough (including Bundaberg area), and Moreton (including Maroochy and Logan areas).

In 1944 the Cairns division had 10 mills operating and 2,039 farms; Townsville, 4 mills and 557 farms; Mackay, 8 mills and 1,969 farms; Maryborough, 8 mills and 1,625 farms; and Moreton, 2 mills and 411 farms.

Five Years' Summary for Divisions.

Division	Season.	On Farms.			In Mills.		
		Farms Growing Cane.	Area Cut for Crushing	Cane Cut for Crushing.	No. of Mills.	Cane Crushed	Sugar Made.
		No.	Acres.	Tons.		Tons.	Tons.
Cairns (a)	1940	2,149	103,860	2,114,872	10	2,072,079	309,438
	1941	2,130	N	N	10	2,063,078	305,928
	1942	2,089	97,804	1,987,056	10	1,966,016	264,144
	1943	2,061	90,711	1,453,523	10	1,430,005	206,608
	1944	2,039	90,101	1,857,262	10	1,819,553	259,563
Townsville (a)	1940	621	25,392	574,542	4	616,539	89,688
	1941	651	N	N	4	646,012	101,557
	1942	597	23,540	630,980	4	652,020	99,165
	1943	589	20,489	414,487	4	438,005	68,247
	1944	557	19,450	552,260	4	589,969	92,529
Mackay (b)	1940	2,199	81,840	1,274,084	8	1,274,880	191,091
	1941	2,139	77,456	1,078,979	8	1,078,979	155,458
	1942	2,072	70,439	979,953	8	979,953	141,071
	1943	2,019	66,689	738,797	8	738,797	109,279
	1944	1,969	67,927	1,110,473	8	1,110,473	169,720
Maryborough (c)	1940	1,940	46,238	1,065,237	8	1,065,237	149,005
	1941	2,007	39,573	878,333	8	878,333	118,375
	1942	1,679	35,070	649,321	8	649,321	87,393
	1943	1,711	39,273	704,696	8	704,696	91,870
	1944	1,625	38,426	806,652	8	806,652	112,475
Moreton	1940	645	5,969	152,133	3	152,133	20,194
	1941	611	5,203	127,835	3	127,835	16,326
	1942	508	4,403	106,178	2	106,178	13,836
	1943	491	3,770	86,114	3	86,114	10,419
	1944	411	3,748	71,621	2	71,621	9,233

(a) Some cane grown on farms in the Cairns division is crushed in a mill in the Townsville division.

(b) Including the Shire of Broadsound. Cane grown in Broadsound is crushed in Mackay Division.

(c) Including the Shire of Miriam Vale. Cane grown in Miriam Vale is crushed in Maryborough Division.

N Not available.

Of the total area cultivated for sugar during the 1944 season, 112,430 acres (36.0 per cent.) were in the Cairns division, 34,394 acres (11.0 per cent.) in Townsville, 98,236 acres (31.5 per cent.) in Mackay, 61,160 acres (19.6 per cent.) in Maryborough, and 5,968 acres (1.9 per cent.) in Moreton.

Detailed Summary in Divisions - 1944 Crop.

Item.	Unit.	Cairns.	Townsville.	Mackay.	Mary-borough.	Moreton
GROWING STATISTICS.						
Farms Growing Cane ..	No.	2,039	557	1,969	1,625	411
Area Cut for Crushing..	Acres	90,101	19,450	67,927	38,426	3,748
Area Cut for Plants (a)	Acres	5,799	1,232	3,965	1,280	130
Area of Standover, Newly Planted,etc.(a)	Acres	16,530	13, 712	26,344	21,454	2,090
Total Area Cultivated for Sugar (a)	Acres	112,430	34, 394	98,236	61,160	5,968
Area Cut for Green Fodder N.E.I. (a)	Acres	747	242	1,993	1,479	448
Cane Cut for Crushing	Tons	1,857,262	552, 260	1,110,473	806, 652	71,621
Sugar Made (94 N.T.)	Tons	N	N	169,720	112, 475	9,233
Average Area of Cane Cultivated per Farm	Acres	55.1	61.7	49.9	37.6	14.5
Average Area Cut for Crushing per Farm	Acres	44.2	34.9	34.5	23.6	9.1
Average Cane Cut for Crushing per Farm	Tons	911	991	564	496	174
Average Cane per Acre Cut for Crushing	Tons	20.6	28.4	16.3	21.0	19.1
Average Sugar Yield per Acre	Tons	N	N	2.50	2.93	2.46
Average Sugar Yield per Farm	Tons	N	N	86.2	69.2	22.5
MILLING STATISTICS.						
Cane Crushed ..	Tons	1,819,553	589,969	1,110,473	806,652	71,621
Sugar Made (94 N.T.)	Tons	259,563	92,529	169,720	112,475	9,233
Average Cane per Ton of Sugar ..	Tons	7.01	6.38	6.54	7.17	7.76

(a) In sugar growing districts only.
N Not available.

Molasses Production and Disposals:

The total production of molasses in 1944 was 19,205,422 gallons, equivalent to 4.4 gallons per ton of cane crushed. This was an increase of 4,427,399 gallons on the 1943 figure.

Molasses Production and Disposals - Queensland

Item.	Average. 1938 - 42	Season. 1943.	Season. 1944.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Production	20,717, 372	14,778,023	19,205,422
How Disposed of -			
Sold to Distilleries ..	10,545, 734	7,345,596	9,136,862
Burnt in Mill Furnaces ..	2,724, 275	2,176,926	2,251,737
Food for Stock	4,181, 492	3,055,728	4,719,517
Used as Manure	2,858, 231	2,122,220	2,745,617
Sold or Used Otherwise ..	238, 529	441,522	254,358
Run to Waste	217, 985	97,643	16,660
Total Disposals	20,766, 246	15, 239,635	19,124,751
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.
Sold to Distilleries ..	50.8	48.2	47.8
Burnt in Mill Furnaces ..	13.1	14.3	11.8
Food for Stock ..	20.1	20.1	24.7
Used as Manure	13.8	13.9	14.3
Sold or Used Otherwise ..	1.1	2.9	1.3
Run to Waste	1.1	0.6	0.1
Total Disposals	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The difference between production and dispcsals is accounted for by stocks carried over.

Molasses Production and Disposals in Divisions - 1944.

Item.	Cairns	Townsville.	Mackay.	Maryborough	Moreton
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
Production	7,406,264	2,424,630	5,334,915	3,767,534	272,079
How Disposed of -					
Sold to Distilleries..	2,906,908	1,509,163	2,932,732	1,601,749	186,310
Burnt in Mill Furnaces	1,948,299	50,136	253,302	-	-
Food for Stock ..	885,373	135,534	2,188,420	1,424,721	85,469
Used as Manure ..	1,438,121	604,456	-	703,040	-
Sold or Used Otherwise	117,492	93,338	16,500	26,728	300
Run to Waste ..	11,200	-	5,460	-	-
In Stock at 31st March, 1945 ..	627,394	83,781	148,251	74,236	-
Total available for Disposal	7,934,787	2,476,408	5,544,665	3,830,474	272,079

Sugar Mill Statistics (Subject to revision):

During the 1944 season 32 raw sugar mills operated, employing 4,286 hands on the basis of full-time employment. Salaries and wages paid amounted to £1,432,095. The value of output, including sales of molasses, mill mud, electricity, etc., and work done by the engineering workshops attached to mills, was £12,602,223. The value of production, which represents the value added by the mills and their tramways, was £2,502,775. This is the difference between the value of output and the costs of cane, fuel, and other materials used, including cost of repairs to plant and replacement of tools. It is the fund available for paying salaries and wages, profits, interest, depreciation and various overhead expenses, such as insurance, rates, and taxes.

The depreciated value of machinery and plant was £6,716,580, and of land and buildings, £1,090,024. These are book values as shown by mills on their factory returns.

Figures for divisions were :-

Item.	Cairns.	Townsville.	Mackay.	Maryborough and Moreton.
Mills .. .. No.	10	4	8	10
Hands Employed No.	1,766	563	1,026	931
Salaries and wages £	624,759	189,853	336,844	280,639
Output .. £	5,107,210	1,784,266	3,305,210	2,405,537
Production .. £	992,147	388,561	586,129	535,938
Land and Buildings £	499,274	191,769	181,591	217,390
Machinery & Plant £	4,057,033	759,063	981,648	918,786

Accessory Manufacturing:

Establishments which operated on the products of sugar mills were 2 refineries (at Brisbane and Bundaberg) and 4 distilleries (at Sarina, Bundaberg, Beenleigh, and Strathpine).

These works employed 458 hands. The products made included refined sugar, golden syrup, treacle, power alcohol, methylated spirits, and rum.

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12th March, 1946.